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Letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1383 (2001) of 6 December 2001, in which the Council, inter alia, endorsed the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions (S/2001/1154), reaffirmed its full support for my Special Representative and endorsed the responsibilities entrusted to him in annex II to the aforementioned Agreement. It also declared its willingness to take further action, on the basis of a report that I would submit, to support the interim institutions established by the above-mentioned Agreement, and in due course to support the implementation of the Agreement.

My Special Representative has now held extensive consultations with the Afghan Interim Administration on the assistance that may be required from the United Nations to support the aforementioned Agreement, which shall be addressed in a report that I plan to submit to the Council in the second half of February 2002. That report will contain recommendations for the establishment of a new United Nations assistance mission in Afghanistan, which would be an integrated mission building upon existing structures and would ensure the coordination of all United Nations activities in the country.

Meanwhile, it is essential that advance preparations be initiated now so that the mission, when authorized, will have the capacity to become operational immediately and to fully and effectively fulfil its tasks. I intend, therefore, subject to the concurrence of the Council, to take the administrative and financial measures necessary to facilitate the establishment and support of an integrated United Nations mission in Afghanistan, whose proposed functions and responsibilities will be presented in my forthcoming report.

I must make clear that, unless the Secretariat is enabled to move forward with preparations in this critical initial phase, valuable time will be lost in making the mission operational in the difficult conditions of which the members of the Council are fully aware.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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